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Attorney's Docket 082106-0274056
Client Reference:

APR 14 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
SEAN PETER WILLEMS ET AL.

Confirmation No: 1004

Application No.: 09/971,114

Group Art Unit: 3623

Filed: October 5, 2001

Examiner: Tarae, Catherine Michelle

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE OPTIMUM CONFIGURATION STRATEGY FOR SYSTEMS WITH MULTIPLE DECISION OPTIONS

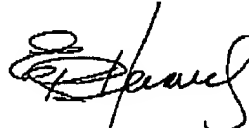
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

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Response to Restriction Requirement

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

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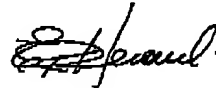
Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 16, 2006, Applicants elect to pursue the invention of Group I, drawn to optimizing a series of options over a series of stages by minimizing costs using subgraphs of nodes where each node corresponds to a stage (claims 1-117), *without traverse*. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the non-elected claims of Groups II and III in future continuing applications.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



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